

**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows. Deletions are indicated by strikethrough and additions are indicated by underlining.

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of classifying an unknown tissue, comprising steps of:  
measuring values of each variable of a set of variables for an index group of tissues and a contrast group of tissues,

calculating mean value and differences of mean value for each variable of the set of variables from the index group of tissues and the contrast group of tissues,

ranking the means and differences of the means between the index and the contrast groups,

determining values of each variable in the set of variables in an unknown tissue, and

comparing the measured values in the unknown tissue to rank orders selected from the group consisting of ranked means of the index group, ranked means of the contrast group, and differences of the means between the index and the contrast groups to classify the unknown tissue.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

displaying to a user a visual indication of a relationship described by the comparison of the measured values of variables in the unknown tissue and the rank orders of the index and contrast groups.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of coding symbols based on the positive or negative values of the means and the differences of the means.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the visual indication is a ternary plot.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the variables are genes and the values are levels of gene expression.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein the values are expressed as log of gene expression.